Hyderabad is also available as a point of call to the designated airlines of USA and UK. Chinese carriers can operate to/from any six points in India, including Hyderabad. However, actual operations by any airline is always guided by its commercial judgement. Air India and Indian Airlines are operating from Hyderabad to Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Bangkok, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Sharjah and Singapore.

Guidelines on employment of foreign pilots

†1489. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of pilots in the country, many airline companies are appointing foreign pilots;

(b) whether Government have issued any guidelines in this regard keeping in view the security of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) *vide* Civil Aviation Requirements Section 7, Series 'G' Part-II dated 8-10-1999 has issued guidelines for validation of foreign pilot licences which *inter-alia* requires the operators to submit details of the pilots for facilitating security clearance. Before approving foreign pilots, their security clearances are obtained from the concerned agencies in the Government.

New airport building at Amritsar

1490. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the new airport building and terminal at Amritsar and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(b) the estimated cost thereof and the cost escalation, if any, likely to be incurred thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The upgradation and development of infrastructure including the Terminal Building under first phase at Amritsar Airport is in final stage of completion. The ancillary buildings such as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Cargo Terminal, Fire Station and ATC cum Technical Block have been completed. The arrival and departure areas of the Terminal Building have been made operational and are being utilized by the various Airline agencies. The building has been completed to the extent of 96% and only minor works are pending. The building shall be completed in all respect by 31st March, 2006. Initially, the building shall be without aerobridge, the action for which has been taken and the aerobridge shall be provided within a period of 6 months time.

(b) The work shall be completed within the estimated sanctioned amount of Rs. 79.27 crores.

Air Service between Delhi and Guwahati

1491. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating to introduce a morning flight from Guwahati to Delhi and an evening flight from Delhi to Guwahati to facilitate the people of North-East to have their work done during the day and return to Guwahati in the evening?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Government does not regulate the timings of flights and the airlines are free to decide their timings according to their commercial judgement. So far as Indian Airlines is concerned, they do not have any plans at present to introduce morning/evening services with day return facility between Delhi and Guwahati due to acute capacity constraints.

Outstanding dues of AAI from private airlines

1492. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues of Airports Authority of India (AAI) from private airlines for landing and parking license fee, electricity charges etc. as on 15th January, 2006;

(b) whether outstanding dues of M/s Air Deccan from N.S.C.B. International Airport, Kolkata alone is Rs. 1 crore for the period from 1st October to 31st December, 2005; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in payment and action taken by AAI to liquidate the dues and to penalize the defaulting private airlines?